

REMARKS

Claim Objections

Claims 4, 14, and 19 are objected to based on minor typographical errors. [Official Action, p. 3]. The Applicants have amended claims 4, 14, and 19 to correct these errors. In claim 4, “demineralizing” was changed to “demineralizing”. In claim 14, a comma was added after “TGF- β ”. In claim 19, “pictogram” was changed to “picogram”.

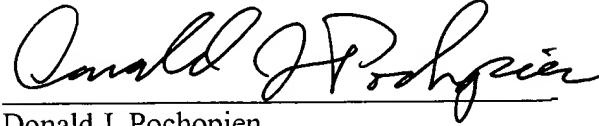
Clarifying Amendments

Applicants have amended claims 3, 11, 17, and 31 in order to further clarify the invention and expedite examination. Claim 3 has been amended to recite "...autograft, allograft, or xenograft bone, said bone being cortical bone, cancellous bone, or a combination thereof." This amendment finds support in the specification at page 11, lines 27-29 ("In one principal embodiment of the invention, the implant is an implant composed substantially of mineralized or demineralized cortical bone, cancellous bone, or cortical-cancellous bone, whether in the form of an autograft, allograft or xenograft, as these terms are understood in the art."). Claim 11 was amended to recite "a combination thereof", rather than "combinations." In claim 17, "ELIZA" was amended to "ELISA" to correct for a typographical error. This term was correctly indicated in the specification at page 14, lines 21-22 ("Likewise, enzyme-linked immunoassays (ELISAs) known in the art, immunoprecipitation assays, and the like may interchangeably be applied according to this invention at this stage, provided that it is determined that interfering materials do not destroy the accuracy and precision of the quantitative detection method chosen."). In claim 31, Applicants deleted redundant and/or unnecessary claim language.

Respectfully submitted,

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